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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Unemployment in New Hampshire was 13,770 in April, a decrease of 3,060 from the March jobless level. The unemployment rate declined from 2.8 percent in March to 2.3 percent in April. In comparison to April 1987, the unemployment level has decreased 1,280 and the unemployment rate declined 0.3 percent.* The New Hampshire civilian labor force has increased 11,210 from 590,780 in March to 601,990 in April. The civilian labor force was 572,300 in April 1987 and has increased 29,690 to the April 1988 level. Labor force and unemployment estimates are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of households and thus report employment status by place of residence.

The Keene area had the lowest unemployment rate for April (1.5 percent), followed by the New Hampshire portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester area (1.6 percent) and the Manchester area (1.7 percent). The Littleton area (with 4.1 percent unemployment) and Pelham (in the Lowell MA PMSA) (also with 4.1 percent unemployment) had the highest rates for April.

The United States unemployment level was 6,359,000 in April, a decrease of 731,000 from March and a decline of 947,000 from April 1987. The rate of unemployment showed a similar trend downward: 5.3 percent for April, dropping from 5.9 percent in March and from 6.2 percent in April 1987. March rates are the latest data available for comparing the unemployment rates of the states. New Hampshire with the rate of 2.8 percent had the lowest rate nationwide; Connecticut ranked second lowest with 3.1 percent unemployment. West Virginia and Louisiana tied for highest rates with 11.8 percent.

New Hampshire nonagricultural wage and salary employment for April was 525,800, an increase of 3,350 from the March level of 522,450 and an increase of 23,700 from the April 1987 level of 502,100. These employment estimates are the results of sampling New Hampshire employers monthly; therefore, employment estimates are based on location of job rather than location of residence. Manufacturing employment decreased 450 from March to April. Durable manufactured goods declined 200 from March to April but since April 1987 had increased 3,200. Electrical products showed the greatest loss from March to April (-250) of all the durable goods industry sectors but had also gained the most employment (+1,200) from April 1987. All of the durable goods industry sectors showed gains or equalled the April 1987 levels of employment. Nondurable goods showed an overall loss of 250 jobs since April 1987; losses were fairly evenly distributed among the industry sectors. Only modest gains were registered for nondurable goods employment from twelve months previous (+250); the greatest gain was in printing, publishing, and allied industries (+1,100), and the largest loss was in leather and leather products (-500).

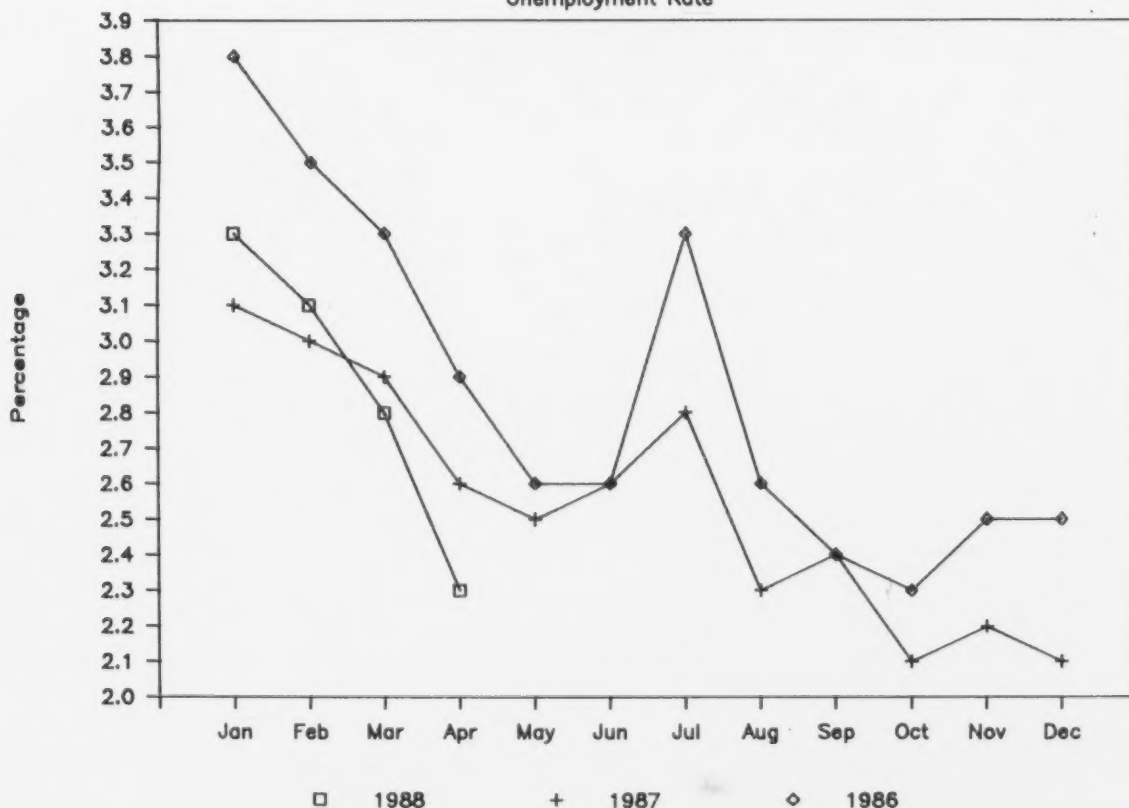
*The year-to-year information for the same month generally shows a more reliable trend. Seasonal fluctuations, which typically occur at the same time each year, may not accurately reflect underlying changes in the economy. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier.

Nonmanufacturing showed a gain of 3,800 since March and 20,250 since April 1987. The greatest changes from March to April occurred in construction (+2,950) and the services industry sector (+600). Growth in nonmanufacturing employment since April 1987 was most notable in the service industry sector (+7,850) and trade (+5,950); no nonmanufacturing sectors showed job losses.

Average weekly earnings for the manufacturing sector of New Hampshire rose in April to \$388.42 from \$386.78 in March and \$372.71 in April 1987. Average weekly hours remained the same from March to April, and average hourly earnings increased \$.04 from \$9.48 in March to \$9.52 in April. The \$0.34 increase in hourly earnings since April 1987 is partially accounted for by the increase of 0.2 hours worked per week, but the upward trend in average hourly earnings is unmistakable. The highest average hourly earnings for durable goods were estimated for the electrical products sector (\$10.44); for nondurable goods the food and kindred products had the highest hourly earnings (\$11.43).

New Hampshire

Unemployment Rate



NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From	
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Previous Month	Previous Year
1. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE**	601,990	590,780	572,300	11,210	29,690
2. UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	13,770 2.3	16,830 2.8	15,050 2.6	-3,060 xxx	-1,280 xxx
3. EMPLOYMENT TOTAL	588,120	573,950	556,950	14,170	31,170
4. PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR DISPUTES	100	0	300	100	-200
NONAGRI. WAGE & SALARY	525,800	522,450	502,100	3,350	23,700
MANUFACTURING	120,600	121,050	117,150	-450	3,450
Durable Goods	84,400	84,600	81,200	-200	3,200
Lumber & Wood Prods.	6,100	6,150	6,100	-50	0
Furniture & Fixtures	1,800	1,800	1,500	0	300
Stone & Clay Prods.	3,700	3,650	3,400	50	300
Primary Metal Prods.	4,500	4,400	4,300	100	200
Fabricated Metal Prods.	6,900	6,900	6,650	0	250
Machinery (Exc. Elec.)	25,750	25,800	25,050	-50	700
Electrical Prods.	24,000	24,250	22,800	-250	1,200
Miscellaneous Prods.	2,050	2,050	2,000	0	50
Other Durable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,400	0	200
Nondurable Goods	36,200	36,450	35,950	-250	250
Food & Kindred Prods.	2,900	3,000	2,850	-100	50
Textile Mill Prods.	3,700	3,750	3,900	-50	-200
Apparel	1,750	1,850	2,000	-100	-250
Paper & Allied Prods.	5,750	5,650	5,650	100	100
Print., Pub. & Allied	8,800	8,850	7,700	-50	1,100
Leather & Lea. Prods.	3,500	3,550	4,000	-50	-500
Other Nondurable Goods	9,800	9,800	9,850	0	-50
Nonmanufacturing	405,200	401,400	384,950	3,800	20,250
Construction (inc. mining)	38,000	35,050	35,500	2,950	2,500
Transp., comm. & utilities	17,400	17,500	16,900	-100	500
Trade	132,050	132,000	126,100	50	5,950
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	33,550	33,400	30,950	150	2,600
Service Industry & Other	117,550	116,950	109,700	600	7,850
Government	66,650	66,500	65,800	150	850
Federal	8,600	8,650	8,500	-50	100
State	17,950	17,700	17,200	250	750
Local	40,100	40,150	40,100	-50	00

* By place of residence

Labor Disputes: 0

** By place of establishment

**MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH**

Industry	Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA					Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA				
	Number of Workers		Numerical Change			Number of Workers		Numerical Change			Number of Workers		Numerical Change		
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	From Previous Month	Year	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	From Previous Month	Year	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	From Previous Month	Year
1. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE*	85,270	86,180	84,100	-910	1,170	99,440	100,240	95,110	-800	4,330	132,520	131,480	127,960	1,040	4,560
2. UNEMPLOYMENT	1,480	2,100	1,770	-620	-290	2,350	2,630	2,360	-280	-10	1,960	3,090	3,060	-1,130	-1,100
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	1.7	2.4	2.1	xxx	xxx	2.4	2.6	2.5	xxx	xxx	1.5	2.4	2.4	xxx	xxx
3. EMPLOYMENT TOTAL	83,690	84,080	82,330	-390	1,360	97,090	97,610	92,750	-520	4,340	130,560	128,390	124,600	2,170	5,960
4. PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR DISPUTES	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	-300
NONAGRI. WAGE & SALARY	85,850	86,050	85,400	-200	450	95,500	95,450	91,350	50	4,150	112,250	108,950	106,900	3,300	5,350
MANUFACTURING	11,800	11,950	12,650	-150	-850	37,200	37,200	36,000	0	1,200	20,800	20,850	20,650	-50	150
Durable Goods	7,350	7,500	7,850	-150	-500	30,950	30,900	29,750	50	1,200	13,250	13,150	12,550	100	700
Machinery & elec. prods.	4,200	4,300	4,500	-100	-300	23,350	23,350	22,250	0	1,100					
Other durables	3,150	3,200	3,350	-50	-200	7,600	7,550	7,500	50	160					
Nondurable Goods	4,450	4,450	4,800	0	-350	6,250	6,300	6,250	-50	0	7,550	7,700	8,100	-150	-550
Textile mill prods.	1,100	1,150	1,400	-50	-300										
Other nondurables	3,350	3,300	3,400	50	-50										
NONMANUFACTURING	74,050	74,100	72,750	-50	1,300	58,300	58,250	55,350	50	2,950	91,450	88,100	86,250	3,350	5,200
Construction (inc. mining)	5,700	5,500	5,700	200	0	5,550	5,300	4,900	250	650	6,200	5,700	5,750	500	450
Transp., comm. & utilities	5,400	5,400	5,100	0	300	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0	3,000	3,000	2,850	0	150
Trade	24,200	24,200	23,550	0	650	21,400	21,800	20,700	-400	700	29,100	28,150	27,350	950	1,750
Finance, ins. & real est.	8,600	8,700	8,350	-100	250	4,100	4,100	3,700	0	400	6,600	6,600	6,350	0	250
Service industry & other	21,500	21,700	21,650	-200	-150	17,900	17,800	17,250	100	650	20,950	19,700	19,350	1,250	1,600
Government	8,650	8,600	8,400	50	250	7,250	7,150	6,700	100	550	25,600	24,950	24,600	650	1,000
Federal	2,650	2,700	2,600	-50	50	900	900	850	0	50					
State	850	800	800	50	50	250	250	250	0	0					
Local	5,150	5,100	5,000	50	150	6,100	6,000	5,600	100	500					

* By place of residence

Benchmark

Labor Disputes: 0

** By place of establishment

Manchester MSA: includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett

Nashua PMSA: includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH-ME MSA: includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth, the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollingsford, Rye, and Stratham, and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

Unemployment*

Civilian Labor Force

Area	April Number	1988 Rate	March Number	1988 Rate	April Number	1987 Rate	Numerical Change		April 1988	March 1988	April 1987	Numerical Change	
							From Month	Previous Year				From Month	Previous Year
UNITED STATES**	6,359	5.3	7,090	5.9	7,306	6.2	-731	-947	120,264	119,957	118,347	307	1,917
NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,770	2.3	16,830	2.8	15,050	2.6	-3,060	-1,280	601,990	590,780	572,300	11,210	29,690
BERLIN	990	3.9	770	3.1	1,110	4.7	220	-120	25,400	25,090	23,540	310	1,860
CLAREMONT	1,070	2.6	1,390	3.5	540	1.4	-320	530	40,700	39,390	37,830	1,310	2,870
CONCORD	990	1.8	1,370	2.6	930	1.8	-380	60	55,620	52,660	51,400	2,960	4,220
KEENE	620	1.5	820	2.0	600	1.6	-200	20	42,000	40,140	38,430	1,860	3,570
LACONIA	1,020	1.9	1,360	2.7	1,090	2.2	-340	-70	54,590	50,190	50,050	4,400	4,540
LITTLETON	750	4.1	510	2.8	830	4.9	240	-80	18,210	18,210	16,810	0	1,400
MANCHESTER	1,480	1.7	2,100	2.4	1,770	2.1	-620	-290	85,270	86,180	84,100	-910	1,170
NASHUA	2,350	2.4	2,630	2.6	2,360	2.5	-280	-10	99,440	100,240	95,110	-800	4,330
NH PORTION LAWRENCE- HAVERHILL, MA PMSA***	1,980	3.9	2,260	4.4	2,150	4.3	-280	-170	51,390	51,830	50,300	-440	1,090
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER- ROCHESTER NH-ME MSA	1,960	1.5	3,090	2.4	3,060	2.4	-1,130	-1,100	132,520	131,480	127,960	1,040	4,560
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREAS****	690	3.3	850	4.5	680	3.4	-160	10	21,080	19,090	20,010	1,990	1,070
NH PORTION LOWELL MA PMSA	220	4.1	300	3.5	260	4.9	-80	-40	5,360	5,410	5,270	-50	90
County													
BELKNAP	430	1.5	670	2.6	590	2.3	-240	-160	28,150	25,980	25,940	2,170	2,210
CARROLL	430	2.3	420	2.4	400	2.4	10	30	18,430	17,610	16,940	820	1,490
CHESHIRE	570	1.5	780	2.2	560	1.6	-210	10	37,490	35,860	34,310	1,630	3,180
COOS	1,040	5.1	710	3.6	1,150	6.1	330	-110	20,210	19,600	18,750	330	1,460
GRAFTON	960	2.3	910	2.3	1,000	2.6	50	-40	41,080	39,600	38,130	1,470	2,950
HILLSBOROUGH	3,970	2.1	4,870	2.6	4,340	2.4	-900	-370	185,930	186,180	179,810	-250	6,120
MERRIMACK	1,150	1.7	1,610	2.6	1,050	1.7	-460	100	65,830	62,030	61,210	3,200	4,620
ROCKINGHAM	3,430	2.7	4,340	3.5	3,880	3.2	-910	-450	124,810	124,080	120,710	730	4,100
STRAFFORD	980	1.7	1,450	2.5	1,770	3.1	-470	-790	58,950	58,410	57,090	540	1,860
SULLIVAN	810	3.8	1,070	5.2	310	1.6	-260	500	21,110	20,540	19,410	570	1,700

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.

.1987 RANKING OF U.S. STATES
MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Mfg./Nonag (%)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Mfg./Nonag (%)</u>
1.	North Carolina	29.95%	27.	California	18.06%
2.	South Carolina	26.82	28.	Kansas	17.60
3.	Indiana	26.74	29.	Washington	17.22
4.	Mississippi	26.39	30.	Idaho	16.22
5.	Arkansas	26.30	31.	Virginia	16.02
6.	Michigan	26.02	32.	New York	15.17
7.	Rhode Island	25.81	33.	Utah	14.40
8.	Wisconsin	25.31	34.	West Virginia	14.35
9.	Tennessee	24.67	35.	Texas	14.28
10.	Alabama	24.47	36.	Oklahoma	13.98
11.	Ohio	23.92	37.	Arizona	13.53
12.	Connecticut	23.42	38.	Nebraska	13.36
*13.	New Hampshire	23.03	39.	Colorado	13.16
14.	Delaware	21.75	40.	South Dakota	11.26
15.	Pennsylvania	21.20	41.	Louisiana	11.03
16.	Maine	20.68	42.	Florida	10.92
17.	Georgia	20.61	43.	Maryland	10.27
18.	Vermont	20.17	44.	Montana	7.59
19.	Kentucky	19.82	45.	New Mexico	7.25
20.	Massachusetts	19.60	46.	Alaska	6.42
21.	Iowa	19.27	47.	North Dakota	6.23
22.	Missouri	19.21	48.	Hawaii	4.82
23.	Minnesota	19.13	49.	Nevada	4.65
24.	Illinois	19.03	50.	Wyoming	4.45
25.	New Jersey	18.85	51.	District of Columbia	2.46
26.	Oregon	18.73			

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Low unemployment rates in New Hampshire combined with higher than average labor force participation rates indicate that hiring new or additional employees may be difficult. Employers seeking to minimize turnover of present employees may raise wages and/or offer more benefits. Information on wages for over 350 occupations in the New Hampshire labor market areas is available in a publication entitled "1987 Wages for New Hampshire". A companion publication "1987 Employee Benefits for New Hampshire" gives benefits information by areas and industrial sectors statewide. Nearly 1,000 employers statewide participated in the comprehensive wage and personnel practices survey.

Publication of these reports was a cooperative effort among the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security (DES), The State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC), Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire (BIA), and the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). Each publication is available through SOICC for \$50.00 or excerpts of some industry divisions by areas are available for \$5.00 each. Order forms and more detailed information are available by contacting Bruce DeMay, D.E.S. Reports and Analysis, at 228-4173.

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Sample Percent of Production Workers 46%
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	
All manufacturing	\$388.42	\$386.78	\$372.71	40.8	40.8	40.6	\$9.52	\$9.48	\$9.18	Total Production Workers: 82,450
Durable goods	392.20	394.28	387.09	40.6	40.9	41.4	9.66	9.64	9.35	Firms Reporting: 318
Lumber & wood prods.	310.40	312.09	306.92	38.8	38.2	38.9	8.00	8.17	7.89	
Furniture & fixtures	299.06	292.11	306.15	40.8	41.2	39.3	7.33	7.09	7.79	
Stone & clay prods.	388.96	368.05	379.67	44.2	41.4	42.9	8.80	8.89	8.85	
Primary metal prods.	454.10	464.45	397.44	47.5	47.2	43.2	9.56	9.84	9.20	
Fab. metal prods.	407.04	407.26	372.91	42.4	42.6	40.8	9.60	9.56	9.14	
Mach. (exc. elec.)	419.62	424.77	419.52	42.3	43.3	43.7	9.92	9.81	9.60	
Electrical prods.	390.46	393.40	408.65	37.4	37.9	40.5	10.44	10.38	10.09	
Miscellaneous prods.	333.04	333.72	303.00	39.6	40.5	39.3	8.41	8.24	7.71	
Other durables	393.90	399.02	379.55	40.4	40.8	40.9	9.75	9.78	9.28	
Nondurable goods	378.53	368.45	340.56	41.1	40.4	38.7	9.21	9.12	8.80	Firms Reporting: 318
Food & kindred prods.	448.06	399.47	413.91	39.2	37.9	40.5	11.43	10.54	10.22	
Textile mill prods.	335.58	320.39	318.06	42.0	40.2	41.2	7.99	7.97	7.72	
Apparel	228.85	219.02	214.83	32.6	33.8	34.1	7.02	6.48	6.30	
Paper & allied prods.	528.41	523.62	477.56	49.2	48.8	46.5	10.74	10.73	10.27	
Print., pub. & allied	377.51	382.78	352.54	38.6	39.3	36.8	9.78	9.74	9.58	
Leather & lea. prods.	206.50	197.15	160.43	35.0	33.7	30.1	5.90	5.85	5.33	
Footwear	208.15	197.05	180.20	35.4	33.8	34.0	5.88	5.83	5.30	
Other nondurables	400.69	394.70	364.84	42.9	41.9	39.4	9.34	9.42	9.26	

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Sample Percent of Production Workers 58%
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	
All manufacturing	\$397.60	\$396.00	\$359.68	39.8	40.0	39.7	\$9.99	\$9.90	\$9.06	Total Production Workers: 9,050
Durable goods	400.42	401.02	378.18	38.8	39.2	39.6	10.32	10.23	9.55	Firms Reporting: 41
Mach. & elec. prods.	406.06	410.44	389.77	39.5	40.2	40.1	10.28	10.21	9.72	
Other durables	392.64	388.48	364.41	37.9	37.9	39.1	10.36	10.25	9.32	
Nondurable goods	392.18	387.20	327.98	41.5	41.5	39.9	9.45	9.33	8.22	
Textiles & apparel	312.45	301.86	274.53	39.5	38.8	36.8	7.91	7.78	7.46	
Other nondurables	419.47	418.63	350.61	42.2	42.5	41.2	9.94	9.85	8.51	

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Sample Percent of Production Workers 40%
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	
All manufacturing	\$471.91	\$464.60	\$462.18	40.3	40.4	41.6	\$11.71	\$11.50	\$11.11	Total Production Workers: 20,050
Durable goods	483.14	481.75	476.58	40.6	41.0	42.4	11.90	11.75	11.24	Firms Reporting: 57
Mach. & elec. prods.	511.43	511.81	511.34	39.8	40.3	42.4	12.85	12.70	12.06	
Other durables	417.05	407.26	396.77	42.6	42.6	42.3	9.79	9.56	9.38	
Nondurable goods	424.86	399.57	410.22	38.8	38.2	38.7	10.95	10.46	10.60	

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Sample Percent of Production Workers 51%
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	
All Manufacturing	\$372.10	\$366.00	\$355.39	40.8	40.0	39.4	\$9.12	\$9.15	\$9.02	Total Production Workers: 14,200
Durable Goods	406.81	412.17	391.23	41.3	41.3	40.5	9.85	9.98	9.66	Firms Reporting: 39
Nondurable Goods	312.42	291.45	303.91	39.9	37.9	37.8	7.83	7.69	8.04	

NEW HAMPSHIRE LABOR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

There were 10,342 active applicants in April 1988, a decline of only 5 from March of this year. Job openings received amounted to 2,060, a decline of 113 from last month. The decrease in the number of job openings is not significant since many employers are looking for qualified people on an ongoing basis. One of the problems employers have faced in Cheshire County according to the "Keene Business Journal" is that one out of five applicants cannot fill out the required form. Illiteracy has been referred to as the invisible handicap. This is undoubtedly a problem in the rest of the counties, and would essentially eliminate these people from most professional, technical and managerial, clerical, sales and many service jobs as well.

Three local offices had sharp declines in the number of active applicants registered in April when compared to March, while three others had substantial increases. Dover (-63), Concord (-63), and Portsmouth (-26) had fewer structural workers registered in April than the previous month, indicating new starts or increased activity in building in those areas. Portsmouth (-40) and Berlin (-13) were the only offices showing a decline in the number of professional, technical and managerial applications for April, while Dover had fewer clerical applicants (-35) and Concord had fewer services applicants (-15). Manchester (206), Littleton (78), and Laconia (41) each reported a greater number of applicants than the previous month. Manchester and Littleton had increases in the number of benchwork and structural active applicants, with Manchester's benchwork increase of 44 due to slowdowns at several textile firms, while part of the increase in structural applicants (34) came from furniture and construction occupations. Littleton picked up some structural applicants (13) from ski areas closing and some builders taking a short vacation. Laconia's increase in active applicants came from services (30), clerical (25), and professional, technical and managerial (21) occupations. Structural active applicants showed a decline of 47 in Laconia from the previous month.

Job openings received decreased by more than 100 from the previous month. Machine trades (-26), benchwork (-23), and farm job openings (-32) were responsible for much of the decrease. A large share of the farm job openings available in March were from Berlin (79) and were actually logging jobs. These jobs are made available to workers in the area before being offered to foreign workers. The logging job openings received in March will continue to be available to workers in the area who will be able to replace foreign workers if they are able to work. Machine trades job openings recorded the greatest decreases in the Keene local office (-23) while Dover reported a slight increase (+7). Large machine assembly plants have had difficulty getting enough work because machine tools that used to sell generate sales over a 10-20 year period now have a much shorter sales life (only a year or two), making the profit margin much more unpredictable. The Laconia local office showed a decrease of 21 job openings in benchwork, and Manchester declined 11, while Littleton had an increase of 10 benchwork job openings received.

ACTIVE JOB APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION
APRIL 1988

	Prof. Tech. & Mgr.	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Process	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Struc. Work	Motor Freight & Trans.	Packaging & Material Handling	Misc.	Total
State	1,784	1,864	523	1,459	105	130	749	706	2,005	468	486	63	10,342
Berlin	26	86	24	82	2	1	26	7	77	26	11	1	369
Claremont	62	113	25	106	5	11	110	47	121	16	51	5	672
Concord	270	219	44	137	10	7	74	49	289	58	47	11	1,215
Conway	62	33	14	59	2	1	12	6	55	10	3	1	258
Dover	205	240	48	142	11	26	129	113	316	73	36	10	1,349
Keene	104	157	53	124	9	5	70	49	127	36	46	4	784
Laconia	94	146	29	104	11	13	37	47	117	23	17	3	641
Lebanon	107	79	28	58	11	1	33	23	60	21	5	3	429
Littleton	67	90	29	104	13	1	29	50	142	21	15	1	562
Manchester	187	241	104	249	12	27	84	123	229	59	89	11	1,417
Nashua	286	221	67	120	13	18	80	139	146	74	100	5	1,269
Portsmouth	235	186	41	147	6	18	50	37	288	44	58	6	1,116
Salem	79	53	17	27	0	1	15	14	38	7	8	2	261

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

Active Applicants are individuals who have contacted a local office of the Department of Employment Security to seek employment or obtain employability development services, and are currently seeking employment. The numbers in this table do not represent only applicants registered during the month.

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION
APRIL 1988

	Prof. Tech. & Mgr.	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Process	Machine Trade	Benchwork	Struc. Work	Motor Freight & Trans.	Packaging & Material Handling	Misc.	Total
State	148	388	106	437	88	25	146	133	383	84	112	10	2060
Berlin	6	22	14	81	5	1	9	4	11	5	6	0	164
Claremont	3	14	7	17	8	0	14	14	16	5	9	0	107
Concord	13	40	6	25	7	1	11	15	21	5	6	1	151
Conway	6	3	6	14	2	1	2	0	10	5	3	0	52
Dover	20	42	4	32	10	2	23	21	61	5	11	2	233
Keene	25	38	8	42	2	2	17	5	40	3	4	0	186
Laconia	5	40	13	31	15	3	14	7	40	11	11	0	190
Lebanon	10	15	9	12	5	0	6	1	16	6	13	3	96
Littleton	3	16	4	29	3	3	5	19	35	7	2	3	129
Manchester	13	33	16	67	12	4	19	15	36	3	14	0	232
Nashua	3	30	5	17	6	5	6	12	13	9	11	0	117
Portsmouth	7	53	12	64	4	2	15	11	75	13	17	1	274
Salem	4	34	2	6	0	1	5	9	8	7	5	0	81
All Other	30	8	0	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	48

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

Openings Received are jobs listed by employers with a local office of the Department of Employment Security during the month. The figures are not cumulative.

ACTIVE JOB APPLICANTS, BY SEX, AGE, NUMBER OF MINORITIES
AND NUMBER OF VETERANS
APRIL 1988

	Male	Female	Eligible Claimant	Minority	Veterans	Age Group Less Than 45 And 45 Over		Non-Agr. Open Rec.	Unfilled Total	Open 30 Days Or More	Total Acct. Apps.
State	6078	4264	3916	315	2323	8275	2067	2060	2665	1481	10342
Berlin	192	177	105	1	60	282	87	164	226	112	369
Claremont	431	241	236	2	167	513	159	107	108	52	672
Concord	817	398	524	21	337	964	251	151	221	120	1215
Conway	154	104	59	3	50	204	54	52	64	41	258
Dover	789	560	591	33	360	1115	234	233	200	93	1349
Keene	441	343	248	10	152	665	119	186	216	105	784
Laconia	326	315	249	3	93	528	113	190	243	131	641
Lebanon	271	158	106	7	107	332	97	96	123	68	429
Littleton	313	249	119	5	89	455	107	129	118	51	562
Manchester	759	658	631	63	270	1110	307	232	206	78	1417
Nashua	748	521	552	110	270	981	288	117	228	144	1269
Portsmouth	690	426	358	47	316	924	192	274	340	192	1116
Salem	147	114	138	10	52	202	59	81	160	94	261
All Other								48	212	200	

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY
APRIL 1988

	Agr., For. & Fish.	Construc. & Mining	Man- ufact- uring	Trans., Comm. & Util.	Trade	Fin., Ins. & Real Est.	Services	Public Admin.	Government	Total
State	61	285	458	46	470	67	604	69	206	2060
Berlin	0	6	28	4	31	3	89	3	18	164
Claremont	4	18	34	3	25	1	17	5	10	107
Concord	4	13	37	4	38	5	35	15	21	151
Conway	2	7	4	2	18	3	16	0	1	52
Dover	9	19	79	2	52	9	61	2	46	233
Keene	2	28	31	1	49	9	58	8	18	186
Laconia	5	44	30	4	49	9	47	2	4	190
Lebanon	5	6	20	4	25	6	26	4	16	96
Littleton	0	42	30	4	19	3	28	3	16	129
Manchester	11	37	53	6	45	1	72	7	11	232
Nashua	2	9	34	3	23	8	34	4	1	117
Portsmouth	6	53	55	6	64	7	77	6	34	274
Salem	0	3	19	3	32	3	21	0	0	81
All Other	11	0	4	0	0	0	23	10	10	48

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

Weekly Claims Filed During April
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U. C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	2,369	10,799	11	38	7	11	60	35	10	18
Berlin	186	859	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
Claremont	86	880	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Concord	158	827	1	3	0	0	7	2	1	0
Conway	62	395	0	3	1	0	1	4	1	0
Dover	263	1,137	1	0	0	0	14	5	2	3
Keene	114	528	1	0	0	3	7	2	0	1
Laconia	151	767	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	1
Lebanon	40	217	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
Littleton	156	750	4	16	0	0	2	4	0	0
Manchester	459	1,551	1	1	0	0	10	6	0	0
Nashua	240	989	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1
Portsmouth	138	734	0	2	1	0	7	9	4	4
Salem	98	267	0	1	3	3	1	0	0	0
Liable Interstate	218	898	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	4

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was \$123.99

Unemployment Compensation
Fund Balance End of Month

\$167,756,063.91

Net contributions received
during month:

\$6,186,487.13

Net benefits paid during
month:

\$1,275,937.58

Interest Received:

APRIL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INFORMATION

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for April 1988 was 117.1 without seasonal adjustment, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The CPI-U rose 0.5% since March of this year and 3.9% in the twelve month period since April 1987. The reference base for indexing prices has been changed beginning January 1988, from 1967=100 to 1982-84=100. The CPI-U for the 1967=100 reference base is available only for the all item category and was indexed at 350.8 in April.

The April index for food and beverages was 116.7. From March to April the prices for food and beverages rose at a greater rate (+0.6%) than prices for all items (+0.5%). The most notable increases were for fruits and vegetables (+2.4%, indexed at 126.0) and cereals and bakery products (+0.8%, indexed at 119.8).

Housing cost increases (+0.3%) were moderate from March to April; the index stood at 117.3. Fuel prices declined (-0.1%) but did not decrease as much as is typical with the slackening of demand for winter heating fuels. Other notable increases include maintenance and repairs, up 1.8% and housekeeping services up 2.7%.

Apparel and upkeep increased sharply with a +2.4% change from the previous month. Women's and girls' apparel led the increases with a 3.7% rise; from February to March the increase was 7.0%. The April index for women's and girls' apparel was 119.6 (as compared with 117.1 for all items and 117.0 for apparel and upkeep overall). The trend of rising apparel costs, especially for women and girls, is attributed to the higher prices of spring and summer fashions.

Transportation costs increased 0.7% from March to April this year (indexed at 107.2). Gasoline rose in price 2.5%. Public transportation costs were up 0.8%, partially due to increased airline fares.

Medical care rose a moderate 0.4% from March to April, but its index at 136.9 is higher than all other indexes for component categories. Medical care commodities rose 0.8% to be indexed at 138.1. The professional medical care services index increased 0.4% to 136.0.

Entertainment rose in cost 0.5% with price increases in toys, sporting goods, and newspapers raising entertainment commodities (+0.7%) faster than entertainment services (+0.4%).

Other goods and services rose 0.1% from March to April 1988 to an index level of 134.8. Tobacco and smoking products, indexed at 142.8 rose only 0.1%. Another component with a high index level (146.3), school books and supplies, increased only slightly with a 0.1% rise.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) (1982-84=100) was 115.7 for April 1988, a 0.5% increase since March 1988 and a 3.7% increase since April 1987. On the 1967=100

reference base, the CPI-W was 344.7. Changes for the various components paralleled those for the components of the CPI-U. The CPI-W differs from the CPI-U in the proportions of goods and services typically consumed.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1988	1987	1986	1985
<u>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</u>				
All Items (1982-84=100)				
Current Month - April	117.1			
Percent change from year ago	3.9			
Year Average		113.6	109.6	
Percent change each year		3.6	--	
All Items (1967=100)				
Current Month - April	350.8			
Percent change from year ago	3.9			
Year Average		340.4	328.4	322.2
Percent change each year		3.7	1.9	3.6
<u>Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</u>				
All Items (1982-84=100)				
Current Month - April	115.7			
Percent change from year ago	3.7			
Year Average		112.5	108.6	
Percent change each year		3.6	--	
All Items (1967=100)				
Current Month - April	344.7			
Percent change from year ago	3.7			
Year Average		335.0	323.4	318.5
Percent change each year		3.6	1.5	3.5